

Please do not change the existing criteria for organic milk
From: Kelle@tcdrs.org
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 10:29 AM
To: NOP Livestock
Subject: Please do not change the existing criteria for organic milk

Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT

Dear USDA:

I understand the USDA is considering a change in its criteria regarding how dairy cattle are raised and managed to produce certified organic milk. I strongly believe that cows should be raised and maintained on pasture, or at least have regular, sustained pasture access.

Do not compromise the term "organic". I and other consumers are willing to pay more for organic milk, produce and meat because they want unadulterated sources of food. History has shown that livestock that is farmed in factories must be given large amounts of antibiotics to live in such unnatural circumstances. This also raises their stress levels and this is transmitted to the milk and meat. This is not organic. Farmers who are allowed to raise animals in factories will lessen the value of the organic "brand" and lessen its value to the consumer. They may lower their costs but they will ultimately also reduce their margins and profit.

From a consumer perspective, consumers do not want to have to read fine print; they want to be able to TRUST that food is what the label implies. The jury is still out regarding the long-term health effect of food additives. Do not contribute to the last refuge for those of us who want to be able to trust what we eat.

Regarding, animal welfare -- the argument is obvious. The cruelty inflicted on farm animals in the name of profit is well chronicled. Because of this, I stopped eating farm animals five years ago. But I do continue to drink milk and eat eggs and cheese which will also be affected by changing the current organic criteria.

Thank you considering this input.

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